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REMARKS

This amendment is filed as a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed October 19, 2005. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status:

Claims 1, 8 and 11 have been amended herein. Claim 7 has been cancelled previously. Claims 30 and 31 are added. Thus, claims 1-6 and 8-31 are currently pending for further action.

Prior Art:

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17 and 21 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,110 to Motoyama ("Motoyama") and U.S. Patent No. 6,427,164 to Reilly ("Reilly"). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites

A computer network for providing services comprising:
a plurality of computing elements each of which comprises computing resources for supporting one or more services;
a mail server for receiving and routing email; and
a redirector, separate from said mail server, communicatively connected to said mail server and each of said computing elements, wherein said redirector receives email from said mail server, *wherein each e-mail relates to a specific said service, with or without being addressed to a specific computing element, and wherein said redirector is configured to selectively match an available computing element with a specific service request of an incoming e-mail and forward the e-mail to that computing element* so as to serve as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements;

wherein said services are controlled by email messages routed by said redirector among said plurality of computing elements.
(emphasis added).

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As established previously, Motoyama does not teach or suggest both a “mail server” and “a redirector, separate from said mail server, communicatively connected to said mail server and each of said computing elements, wherein said redirector receives email from said mail server” as an email proxy for the plurality of computing elements.” Consequently, the Office Action cites to the teachings of Reilly to supplement the failings of Motoyama. According to the Office Action, Reilly teaches the claimed combination of a mail server and redirector. This is inaccurate.

Reilly merely teaches, as shown in Fig. 2, two separate domains (DOMAIN 1 and DOMAIN 2). Each domain has an email server (140, 240) that operates to route mail as addressed within that domain. Thus, the combination of Motoyama and Reilly fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination of both a mail server and a separate redirector within the meaning of the claims.

More specifically, claim 1 recites “*each e-mail relates to a specific said service, with or without being addressed to a specific computing element, and wherein said redirector is configured to selectively match an available computing element with a specific service request of an incoming e-mail and forward the e-mail to that computing element so as to serve as an email proxy for said plurality of computing elements.*” Neither Motoyama nor Reilly teach or suggest the claimed redirector that matches a specific emailed service request with an appropriate computing element “with or without” reference to the addressing of the email message such that the redirector actually serves as a proxy for the computing elements that may ultimately be tasked based on the service need represented by the email message.

“To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580

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(CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For at least this reason, the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent claim 11 similarly recites:

A method of providing services with a computer network that comprises a plurality of computing elements each of which comprise computing resources for supporting one or more services, and a redirector, communicatively connected to each of said computing elements; said method comprising:

receiving an e-mail message, said message being configured for controlling a specific service on one of said computing elements, wherein said e-mail message relates to said specific service, with or without being addressed to a specific computing element; and

routing at least some of said e-mail message to a corresponding computing element with said redirector that is configured to function as an e-mail proxy for said computing elements, wherein said redirector determines which computing element receives data from said e-mail message based on the specific service to which that e-mail message relates.

In contrast, the combination of Motoyama and Reilly fails to teach or suggest that "said redirector determines which computing element receives data from said e-mail message based on the specific service to which that e-mail message relates." As demonstrated above, the combination of Motoyama and Reilly merely teaches the exchange of addressed emails between two separate domains.

"To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For at least this reason, the rejection of claim 11 and its dependent claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Additionally, the various dependent claims of claims 1 and 11 recite subject matter that is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record, particularly Motoyama and Reilly. Claim 8, for example, recites: "The network of claim 1, further comprising a firewall through

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which said email messages are received, said mail server and redirector both being protected within a common firewall." The combination of Motoyama and Reilly fail to teach or suggest the claimed combination of a mail server and a redirector both being protected within a common firewall.

Claims 4-6, 10, 13-15, 19, 20 and 22-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings of Motoyama, Reilly and U.S. Patent No. 4,80,901 to Weber ("Weber"). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

First, even though claim 26 is an independent claim, the final Office Action did not specifically address claim 26 and does not explain where or how Motoyama, Reilly and Weber teach all the features of claim 26 and how or why the teachings of Motoyama, Reilly and Weber can be combined to approximate the subject matter of claim 26. Consequently, no *prima facie* case of unpatentability has yet been made for claim 26 and its dependent claims.

Second, independent claim 26 recites:

A computer network for providing services comprising:
a plurality of computing elements each of which comprises computing resources for supporting one or more services; and
a service handler on at least one of said computing elements for obtaining a service using an incoming email and loading and invoking that service on the computing element corresponding to the service handler.

The combination of cited prior art does not teach or suggest a service handler on a computing element that uses an incoming email to *load and invoke* a service on that corresponding computing element. "To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. §

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706.02(j). For at least this additional reason, the rejection of claim 26 and its dependent claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

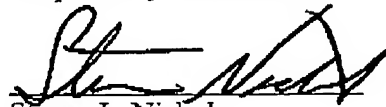
Conclusion:

The newly added claim is thought to be patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons given above with respect to the original independent claims.

Therefore, examination and allowance of the newly added claim is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



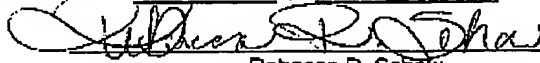
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